G.A.R.

1866

THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

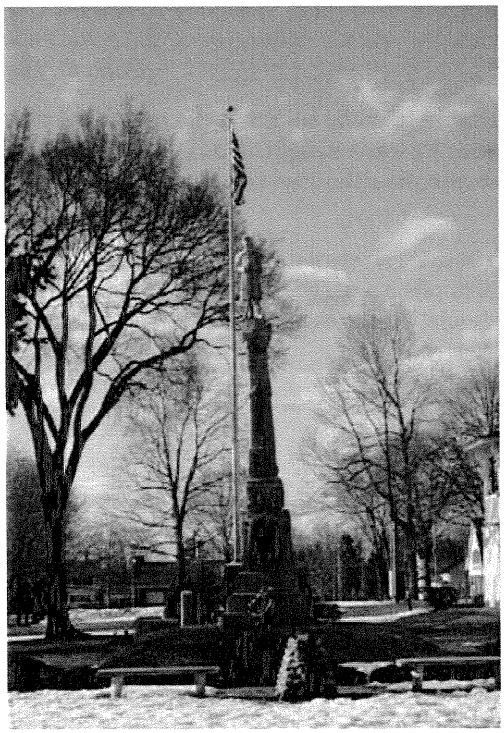
THE CLARION CALL

Newsletter of the Department of Massachusetts

VOLUME No. I ISSUE No. II JULY 2002

S.U.V.C.W.

1881



Civil War statue ages, leans

Belchertown needs nearly $31K to right landmark

By STEPHEN C. HILL

(Reprinted from the Daily Hampshire Gazette, January 19,2002 Courtesy of GazetteNET.com)

BELCHERTOWN – It is the wear of old age, not an optical illusion or design, that has caused the Civil War soldier Statue on the town common to lean, according to an expert.

"The overall condition of the sculpture is unstable and in need of conservation," said Ronald S. Harvey of Tuckerbrook Conservation in Lincolnville, Maine, in a report done last fall.

The 1884 statue was made of cast zinc by the Monumental Bronze Co, of Bridgeport, Conn. It has a hollow base of five segments, topped with a rifle-toting Union soldier looking to the south.

The soldier itself is leaning about 2 degrees to the north and 3 degrees to the west due to compression of the upper part of the base, Harvey stated.

The top section of the base, a tapered four-sided column, is also tilted, 10 to 15 degrees to the west and 5 degrees to the south, according to Harvey.

Stress cracks, split seams and weathering are also visible in various areas of the statue.

Harvey examined the statue in August after the town received an $850 grant from the Save Outdoor Sculptures Program, run by the Smithsonian Institution and the Washington, D.C.-based non-profit Heritage Preservation.

The cost to preserve and repair the statue, Harvey estimated, is $30,700.

Harvey proposes to remove the soldier from the base, design and install stainless steel interior support in the base, and then clean the statue and fill the cracks with resin.

"The interior stainless steel support may allow some mechanical adjustment of the upper section of the base, to bring that section into visual level," stated Harvey.

Edward Knight, a town resident and a member of the Springfield chapter of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, has led the recent effort to repair the statue. Knight said he plans to meet with the town's War Memorial Committee and later make a presentation to the Board of Selectmen. Grants might be available to pay help for the repairs, but would likely require a matching contribution from the town, he said.

We're going to have to start raising some money," said Knight.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *You can access a copy of Ronald S. Harvey's Condition Assessment of the Belchertown Soldiers Monument on the Department of Massachusetts Website, at* ***www.suvmass.org***.

Contact the Editors at: THE CLARION CALL 14 Crestview Terrace Gloucester, MA 01930 Email: signals@suvmass.org

Our Responsibility

by Kevin Tucker, Junior Vice Commander

*"**Care Of G.A.R. Monuments / Civil War Memorials -***
As legal heir to the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), the preservation of monuments, memorials, and outdoor sculpture that was erected and dedicated by the GAR is one of the most important purposes of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)! Our American tradition of Memorial Day, being founded by the GAR in 1868, has been celebrated each year with many communities focusing part of their ceremonies at or near a GAR monument. With proper care, these monuments will continue to stand in tribute to those who saved the Union from the conflict of 1861 to 1865." - National Civil War Memorials Committee

The Belchertown Soldiers Monument was erected through the efforts of the G. A. R.:

"The E. J. Griggs Post No. 97, Grand Army of the Republic of Belchertown, Mass. was instrumental in the erection of the monument. At the Annual Town Meeting in March 1884, the town voted to "Appropriate the sum of $850 dollars for the purpose of a soldiers monument provided a like amount be raised by subscription for that purpose."
Resting in the Archives of the Stone House Museum of the Belchertown Historical Association, is a document that gives the names of townspeople who contributed a matching sum towards the erection of the monument. Among the substantial contributors to the monument were Myron P. Walker of Belchertown, who was a drummer boy with the 10th Mass. Regt. Company C; and the Clapp brothers who built Clapp Memorial Library. But most gave what they could, one two, five and ten dollars. In all some one hundred and twenty seven names are listed on the document." -Doris M. Dickson

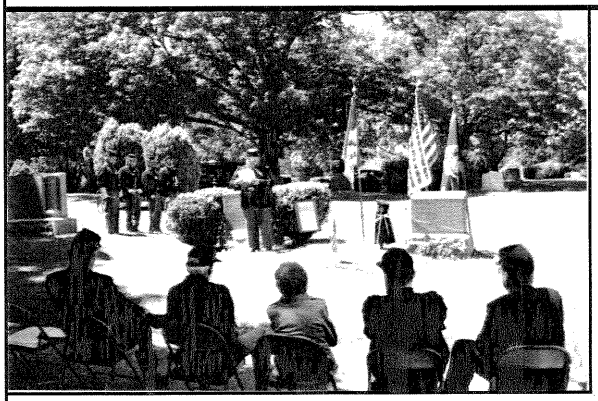
As Members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is our responsibility to make sure that the memorial that these men erected to their brothers is not destroyed by time and neglect. Brother Edward Knight, of L. A. Tifft Camp #15 and Chairman of the War Memorials Committee in Belchertown has been coordinating the assessment and proposals for repair of the monument.

I urge all members to support Brother Knight and give what they can to help in this restoration. Brother Knight is hoping to obtain matching funds from various grant programs, but needs to have funds in place with which to match. Our goal is to raise $15,350 as soon as possible, in hopes of acquiring this amount in match funds. I hope that all members will follow the example of the G. A. R. members who erected the statue, and will give what they can.

To send a tax-deductible donation, make checks payable to
"Town of Belchertown, War Memorial Gift Fund"
and send to:

L.A. Tifft Camp #15
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Belchertown War Memorial Gift
P.O. Box 1865
Belchertown, MA 01007

William Jenkins Grave Marker Rededication



On Saturday, June 8, 2002, the William Jenkins Camp #129, Haverhill, held a ceremony dedicating a new bronze plaque and replacement grave marker at the Elmwood Cemetery in Bradford, MA, at the grave of the man for which the Camp is named. Descendants of William Jenkins were present, including his Grand Niece, Ruth Caroline Wingren, his Grand Nephew, Raymond W. Jenkins, his Great-grand Nephew and Camp #129 Commander, Douglas Jenkins and Great-great-grand Niece, Amanda Ford.

Also in attendance were other Members of Camp 129, along with the 9th Massachusetts Battery Light Artillery Reenactors Unit, who executed a three-volley musket salute. Department of Massachusetts Senior Vice Commander, John W. Bates III and Junior Vice Commander, Kevin Tucker each spoke a few words on behalf of the Department. Members of the New Hampshire Civil War Round Table, along with the descendants of William Jenkins and friends of the Jenkins family participated in this memorial services.

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Memorial Day Services at Bourne National Cemetery

Bourne, MA – On Sunday, May 26, 2002, the Department of Massachusetts joined with dozens of other Veterans groups from around New England to participate in the annual Memorial Day observance at the Veterans Administration National Cemetery, in Bourne, Massachusetts. Before a crowd of thousands, the ceremonies began with a parade into the cemetery by the military units of the various Veterans organizations, including the Department of Massachusetts Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, with the 11th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry participating on behalf of the Department. The ceremonies included and prayers by officials from the various Veterans groups at the assembly area. After a fly-over by two Air National Guard F-15 Eagle fighter planes, Colonel Frank J. Tucker of the 11th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry had the honor of reading General John A. Logan's 1858, "General Orders Number 11" which inaugurated Memorial Day.
Department Commander Robert H. Knight, representing the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, was among those laying a wreath at the memorial on the Veterans knoll. The services at the assembly area concluded with a 3-volley cannon salute by the US Army Reserve. Following the official ceremonies, the Department of Massachusetts held its own ceremony at the grave of the Unknown Union Soldier. This is the only Civil War grave in the Veterans Administration National Cemetery, and is honored by the Department each year.
The ceremony included prayers and the placing of flowers on the grave by the Department officers, the placement of a wreath on the grave, and a three-volley musket salute by the 11th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. The bugler for the unit then played taps to conclude the ceremony. Once again, we had a great turnout for the ceremonies, with more than 20 members in uniform.

New England Regional Association

The Annual Encampment of the New England Regional Association will be held at the Weirs, New Hampshire on July 20, 2002, (the third Saturday in July) at the G. A. R. Veterans Hall.

The Auxiliary will meet in the church hall, as in past years.

The meeting for the Sons of Union Veterans will commence at 10:00 AM.

We will recess for a cookout style buffet lunch at 12:00 PM, catered by the J. S. Durgin Camp #7.

For those of you who attended, the menu will be similar to last year, with a variety of homemade salads, grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, and cold sliced turkey for those preferring a leaner meal.

Also included will be a selection of cold soft drinks and, to top it off, cookies for desert.

All this for only $7.00 per person.

Those wishing to attend should make reservations for lunch in advance. Send $7.00 for each person attending the lunch to:

Richard L. Woodbury, N. E. R. A. Commander

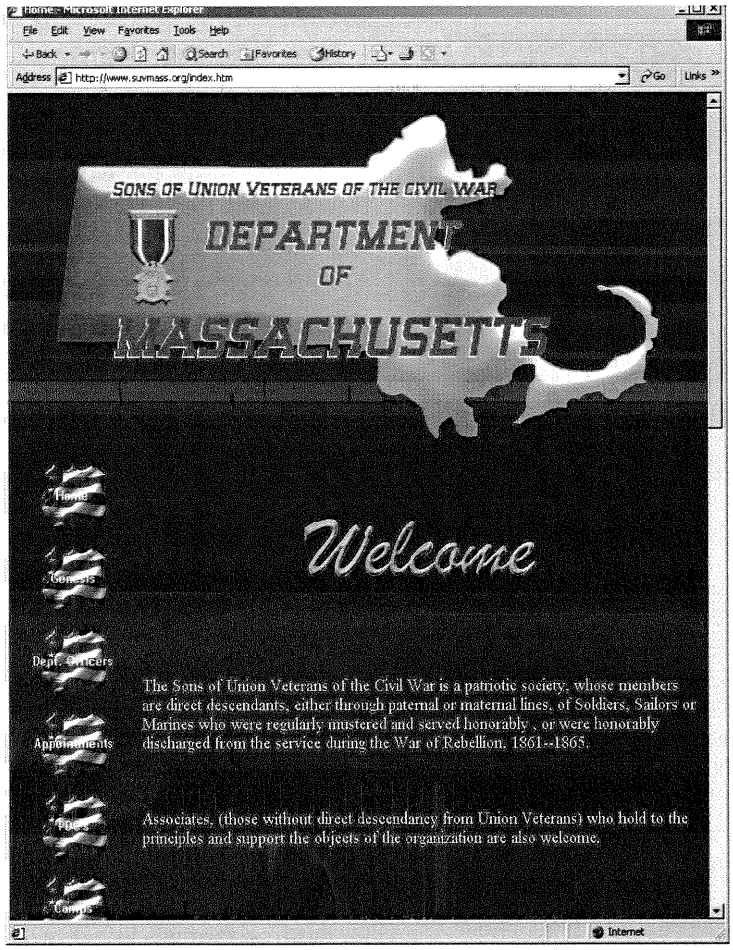
P. O. Box 853

Sunapee, NH 03782

Please submit your lunch reservations no later than July 13, 2002.

Entertainment will be announced at a later date.

The meeting will reconvene after lunch, with the Auxiliary joining the Sons for a joint business meeting and our closing ceremony.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Address http://www.suvmass.org/index.htm
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
DEPARTMENT
OF
MASSACHUSETTS
Welcome
The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a patriotic society, whose members are direct descendants, either through paternal or maternal lines, of Soldiers, Sailors or Marines who were regularly mustered and served honorably , or were honorably discharged from the service during the War of Rebellion, 1861--1865.
Associates, (those without direct descendancy from Union Veterans) who hold to the principles and support the objects of the organization are also welcome.
Internet

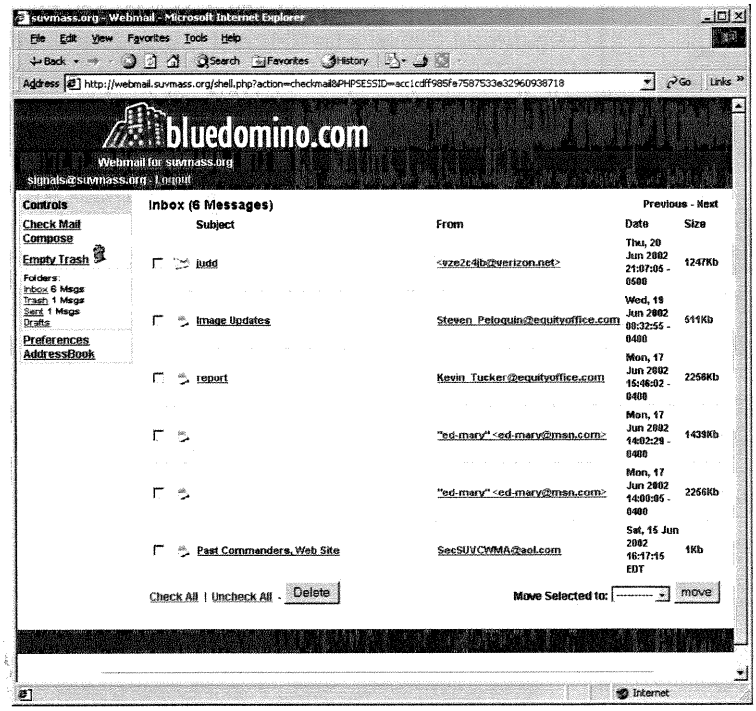
DEPARTMENT UNVEILS NEW WEB PRESENCE

On June 1st, the Department of Massachusetts' internet presence took a giant leap forward with the introduction of a new internet domain, "suvmass.org".

This domain name was chosen to allow net surfers to more easily identify our Department on the internet, and to allow a standardized email scheme to be implemented to enhance communication within the Department. As a result, our Department of Massachusetts web-site now resides at: www.suvmass.org.

Along with the new internet address, the Department has redesigned the website with a new color scheme, pictures of Department Officers, and a Department News page for upcoming events. Even the Clarion Call is loaded on the site in .PDF form and can be accessed "on line".

Another part of the project was the creation of standardized email accounts for every Department Officers and all Camps. All the email accounts were created within the "suvmass.org" domain.



This means that, if you want to contact, say, the Department Senior Vice Commander, you can email him at "svc@suvmass.org". If someone in the Springfield area is interested in joining Camp 15, they can email Commander Moore at "camp15@suvmass.org". Contacting the Editors of the Clarion Call is easy, just send your article to "editor@suvmass.org". I'm sure you get the idea.

For a complete list of Department of Massachusetts email addresses, go to the website at "www.suvmass.org.

The website improvements will be an ongoing project, and your input is valuable. Please feel free to contact the Signals Officer, Kevin Tucker, with any suggestions for improvements. He can be contacted at "signals@suvmass.org".

My Civil War Ancestor

by Edward James Judd
L. A. Tifft Camp #15

I had searched for Isaac E. Judd, my Civil War ancestor, for over twenty years. I spent quite a bit of time looking in books for him. I had driven many miles in search of him, had walked many local cemeteries across Western Massachusetts, searching for a grave marker with his name on it. We never did find him in Massachusetts.

Then, not too many years ago, I suffered some major health problems and have been unable to work since. With more time on my hands, and with the help of my wife, I began a mission to find Isaac's grave. Along the way I began to know who Isaac Judd was, read how he died, and shed a few tears.

Isaac E. Judd was born in Madison County, NY, his family having previously lived in South Lee, Massachusetts. He had been a schoolteacher in Great Barrington, Massachusetts and was shop keeping in a small store in the summer of 1862. He enlisted in Company E of the 49th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, for nine months service, under the call of August 4th, 1862. The 49th Mass. Infantry was mustered in at Camp Briggs, Pittsfield on Sept. 18th and 19th of 1862, and within 3 weeks were moved to Camp Wool, Worcester.

The line officers of the 49th Mass. Infantry were elected on the 10th of November and Isaac, being highly respected, was elected Sergeant. Later, when Company K was raised, Isaac was elected 2nd Lieutenant initially, and then later raised to First Lieutenant.

From Worcester, the 49th Mass. Infantry traveled to Camp Banks, on Long Island, New York, and then, after a short stop at Fort Munroe, Virginia, they received orders to proceed to New Orleans, Louisiana. In February of 1863, the regiment landed at Carrollton, LA, seven miles above New Orleans. The regiment formed Camp Banks, near Baton Rouge. From here they proceeded to Port Hudson, LA to cover the Fleet proceeding up the Mississippi River, and in May, they participated in a skirmish at Plains Store.

On the 26th of May, volunteers were requested for the storming of the Confederate works in Port Hudson, LA. Two hundred and thirty three officers and men of the 49th Mass. Infantry volunteered. Sixteen men were killed and sixty-four wounded.

Lieutenant Judd was fatally wounded on the 26th of May, and died on the 13th of June, 1863. He had been wounded in the groin and all initial indications were that he would survive. Unfortunately, complications set in and he began to hemorrhage. It was reported that the Surgeon attending Lt. Judd tried to stem the bleeding by pinching off the artery with his hands, but efforts to repair it failed, and eventually he had to release it. As his life flowed away, Isaac E. Judd's last words were, "Doctor, I can't see". He never married, never had any children, and he died at 23 years old. And he never made it back home.

It is perhaps some small consolation that Isaac died on the same day that another attempt was made on the very same works, which led to a siege and eventually to a surrender to Union forces July 9th, 1863, after the surrender of Vicksburg, Mississippi on July 4th, 1863. (Vicksburg, Mississippi as a city did not celebrate another 4th of July until 1945.)

I finally found Isaac E. Judd in Baton Rouge National Military Cemetery. My brother happened to come across a copy of the book, "Life with the 49th Massachusetts Volunteers", a regimental history of the 49th Mass. In it, it was stated that Isaac had died in Baton Rouge, LA, and gave a very graphic account of his death.

Through the internet, I found the telephone number of the Baton Rouge National Military Cemetery and called to inquire whether his grave was located there.
"Yes sir," the cemetery staff member told me, "1st Lieutenant Isaac E. Judd is buried here".

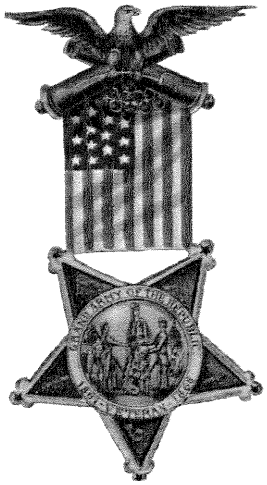
I traveled to Baton Rouge and on a March afternoon in 2001, I found Isaac E. Judd. I'm sure I was the first Judd to visit him in over 100 years.

I had visions of Isaac Judd being buried overlooking the Mississippi River, in peaceful and tranquil surroundings. I found him buried in the middle of the city, a long way from the Mississippi River. I'm not sure if he's content there. I know what the hills of Massachusetts mean to me and to other members of the Judd family, and hope that somehow Isaac can find a way to rest peacefully, so far from his home.

MRS. BEVERLY A. MASSEY

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Mrs. Beverly A. Massey, late wife of Richard S. Massey Sr., of Willie Grout Camp #25, on Tuesday, May 21, at home after an illness.
She leaves her husband of 46 years, Richard S. Massey Sr, three sons; Richard S. Massey Jr. of Gloucester Point, Va., Darryl S. Massey of Worcester and Jeffrey R. Massey of Ballouville, Conn., two daughters; Robin E. Groh of Charlton and Jennifer J. Kimball of Waltham, a sister; Elizabeth Oslund of Florida, three grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, nephews and nieces.
A wake was held on Tuesday, May 28th, 2002 at the Scanlon Funeral Service, in Webster, MA. Among those in attendance were friends from the Sons of Union Veterans, including Dept. Commander Robert Knight, Camp Commander Peter Rotando, Benjamin Duce and Perley Mellor, (and his wife, Diane) of Willie Grout Camp #25, Camp Commander Roy L. Henry, James Millen, Ralph Warner, George Maple and Norman Wheeler, all from A. A. Sherman Camp #18. Mrs. Karen Cauldwell, wife of the late Past Department Commander (1998—2000) Frederick G. Cauldwell also attended.
Mrs. Massey was laid to rest on Wednesday, May 29 at the West Thompson Cemetery, in Thompson, CT.

G.A.R.



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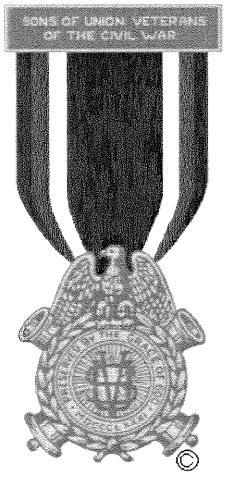

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